

SACRAMENTO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES SURVEY

Oral History Interview  
with John Glavas

June 16, 1984

00:00 Introduction

00:30 Born: Sacramento March 4, 1929  
Parents: Martha & John Glavas  
Mo: Lika, Yugoslavia - 1895 approximately  
Worked on ranches in Bay area  
Fa: Hercegovina, Yugoslavia - 1895 approximately  
Father was miner, tunneler, heavy construction.  
One brother George in West Sacramento

04:00 Born at 5th & 6th between P & Q,  
Then lived at 13th & Q, 14th & T, 11, 12 & T  
(Lot of Yugoslav, Italian, Portuguese in the Southside area)  
Quite a few Slavs on Q

07:00 Father worked out of town, Angels Camp, etc.  
Mother worked seasonally in the canneries like a  
lot of Yugoslav women

08:00 Boarding houses in mountains  
Bachelors gathered on holidays at Glavas house  
(Some had wives but never sent for them)

09:30 Winemaking anecdotes

12:00 Music at house gathering

12:30 Biographical detail on Mr. Landek living with the  
family @ 50 years

13:30 Businesses, Perich store 13th-14th & O, 12th & P,  
restaurants & bars  
Downtown "Equipoise" Club and Yugoslav barber next door  
Rosemount Grille

16:00 Learning Yugoslav folk music, lists names of early  
band members

18:00 Played on radio station KBFK

18:30 Effect of WW II on Sacramento Yugoslavs, Red Cross benefits

19:30 Bachelors "carried" the dances

21:00 United Ladies Slavonian Society  
Post WW II era

22:00 Played at the state fair, Yugoslav dances, Northern California

24:00 "A Good Period, Really"

24:30 Played a lot at the Turn Verein, Dante Club at 15th-16th & P  
(pre-war), Tuesday Club, Odd Fellows Hall in Oak Park

27:00 Dancing in the hall, singing in the bar and reminiscing

27:30 "The Bachelors" lifestyle

29:30 Married 12/9/1950 (Arlene--Portugese/Armenian)  
One Daughter, Michelle

Side B

00:00 He started in the wholesale florist trade about 1948  
(not a Slav dominated trade)

01:30 Contact between Bay area & Sacramento Slavs

02:30 Prominent Yugoslav families: Babich, Zarich, Sapunor, Radich

04:00 Reflection on intra-Yugoslav divisiveness, was more important in the past than now

06:00 Could not speak English when he started school,  
has forgotten his Yugoslav

07:00 Schools attended: William Land, California Junior High,  
McClathy  
Did not graduate, school too boring and inappropriate

09:00 Few other Yugoslavs in school, most Croatians went to parochial schools like Christian Brothers

10:00 No Slavic neighborhood now

10:30 Few new immigrants from Yugoslavia

11:00 Final statement emphasizes unification

End interview